

The Democratic Celebration.

The Democrats of the Cape Fear country are decidedly the largest men in the United States, for on Wednesday night they made a show in procession that any man looking at them would have taken for at least five hundred people, if not two thousand, yet the *Herald* of yesterday gravely informs us that there were probably four hundred. All we can say is, that one Democrat must take up as much room, and look as large, and carry as many heads and hands as four or five Know-Nothings, for had the crowd been seen the end of it, and it would still have been marching in its dreams several thousand strong. We stood at the corner of Front and Red Cross streets, where the procession wheeled, and we know that the whole number the *Herald* speaks about might have easily been taken from the line without being particularly noticed. But let all that pass. It is the fault of our neighbor's optics, which view all things Democratic as through a reversed telescope. The procession of Wednesday night was at least twice as large as any we have ever seen in Wilmington, and far superior in display. It was composed mainly of farmers. We marked many a well known face there from this and the adjoining counties. As for the transparencies, the burden and spirit of every motto was the Constitution and the Union, but the Constitution always first, and no Union without preserving without the Constitution. They reflected the highest credit upon the committee of arrangements, and with the other matters got up for the occasion were all that could be desired.

As for the crowd at the corner, we estimated that according to obvious rules and precedents. We have seen buildings filled with people. We have known the exact number to a man—we have also known the exact area of the buildings; we compared such areas with the area occupied by the dense mass in the street on Wednesday night, and know that the estimate we made could not differ much from the exact number, and we never saw people in a building seated or standing so close as were the people crowding up to hear Mr. Venable.

We do not desire to get into any controversy in regard to Mr. Venable's remarks, but would simply allude to that portion commented on by the *Herald*. Mr. Venable did not say that the immediate result of Fremont's election would be the extinction of slavery, with all its ruinous consequences. But he called attention to the inevitable result if submitted to—the inevitable degradation such submission would entail, and the duty of the South to maintain its rights at all hazards, to maintain them at once without waiting until it saw itself bound and fettered and resistance to oppression useless. As for Fremont he is but the stalking-horse, the mere effigy pushed forward by a party who openly avow that they do mean all that Mr. Venable charged, but that for the present they are content to aim at the establishment of a strictly and avowedly sectional supremacy as a vantage ground from which to operate for the accomplishment of their ultimate designs. As for what Mr. Venable said we listened to it attentively, our attention being especially called to it at the time by a gentleman who stood next to us, and we know that we have heard quite as strong expressions from speakers of all parties pending the exciting issues of the last few years. It is time for Southern men to speak out. It is no time for the free men—the master race to hide their heads, or speak with bated breath. If there be a harm, it is not in the free and open expression of opinion, nor in full warning given to Southern men of what they may expect in certain contingencies, against the occurrence of which it is their duty to guard. There is an evil in the sufferance given to negroes in allowing them to crowd around stands at political meetings, as they are in the habit of doing. For this, all who have the control of negroes must feel that they themselves are to blame. The public authorities ought to see to it. Mr. Venable made a most capital speech, touching all the cords from grave to gay, from lively to severe. However we may have differed from Mr. Venable's course at one time, his speech here was that of true hearted Southern and a good Democrat.

People went down to the ground yesterday pretty much as it suited them, but they were there, a vast multitude, three-fourths of whom was from the country, a thoughtful, earnest, attentive audience of grown men—voters. Many ladies were also there in carriages, and on the seats reserved for them.

The arrangements for the speaking were excellent. The day was fine, the shade pleasant, the crowd orderly, attentive and well pleased. The meeting was organized by calling Dr. J. D. Bellamy to the Chair, and appointing Messrs. McKoy, of Wilmington, and George, of Columbus, Secretaries. The Chairman explained the objects of the meeting, and introduced to the audience Hon. Warren Winslow, the able representative of the Cape Fear District, who spoke as he always speaks, well and clearly, giving a history of party action, and reviewing in a masterly manner the present position of political affairs throughout the country. He paid a merited and eloquent tribute to the President of the United States for his ability, firmness and patriotism. Neither he nor his colleagues claimed any merit for the course they had pursued on the Army Appropriation Bill. They had simply done their duty, and for so doing they had been amply rewarded. North Carolina was the best of paymasters—she paid in advance by her majority in August, which had fallen upon the enemies of the South like a clap of thunder in a clear sky, while it had strengthened the hearts and armed the hands of her friends. Mr. Winslow referred to the Missouri Compromise—a compromise that never ought to have been made, and proceeded at length to elucidate the issues at present pending between parties, and to show that Buchanan alone could defeat Fremont—alone procure peace and safety to the South—alone avert the painful alternative of submission to insult and oppression on the one hand, or dissolution on the other.

Mr. Winslow introduced to the meeting Hon. L. O. B. Branch, who proceeded to deliver a most powerful address, based mainly upon facts derived from the history of the country. He proceeded to explode all the cant about the Missouri Compromise, the repeal of which was made the excuse for the Fremont anti-slavery excitement at the North, aided and abetted by the declaration of the Know-Nothing platform, which denounces that repeal as reckless and unwise. Why, the North had first violated every compromise made from the time of the ordinance of 1787 up to the present time. By that ordinance, which prohibited slavery in the Northwest territory ceded by Virginia, it was stipulated that only so many non-slaveholding States should be formed out of said territory. That number had already been exceeded, and more States formed out of the same territory would be knocking at the doors of the next Congress with anti-slavery constitutions. He showed that the North had in the very year after the passage of the so-called compromise prohibiting slavery North of 36 degrees 30 minutes, refused to come up to the other part of that compromise in the admission of Missouri as a State with the institution of slavery, and it required all the influence of Mr. Clay and others to

carry that point, which, after all was mainly carried by Southern votes. The North—at least the Northern Whigs, had opposed the admission of Arkansas as a slave State although South of that parallel—they had uniformly treated the compromise as a nullity, and yet Southern men join in denouncing its repeal as reckless and unwise, and the cause of all our difficulties.—He showed that the doctrine of popular sovereignty—the right of the people of every territory when forming a State Constitution, to decide for themselves the character of their own institutions, was the true doctrine—the Constitutional doctrine—the doctrine of perfect equality between the sections. He also showed that Mr. Buchanan was the only real competitor of Fremont, the only candidate who could crush this democratic spirit of fanaticism and aggression at the North, and that the throwing away of Southern support upon Mr. Fillmore could only give the appearance of division at the South without affording that gentleman the most distant shadow of a chance for an election. He invited all true lovers of their country and their section, to cast aside prejudice and come up manfully to the support of those who alone could do efficient service to either.

The Chairman next introduced to the meeting Col. Walter L. Steele of Richmond county, an old Line Whig, who had the moral courage, the boldness and manliness to come forward to act with the Democratic party in defence of the South and of the Constitution. Col. Steele delivered a most able and telling speech, administering a caustic rebuke to those who, unable to meet the issues involved, resorted to the miserable subterfuge of impugning the motives of those whose arguments they were unable to answer.—They had denounced him as a renegade—a pretty accusation to come from a party composed of renegades, for were not seven-eighths of the adherents of the "American" party renegades from the old Whig party—had they not proclaimed both of the old parties in ruins and ruined by their own corruptions. What claim had Mr. Fillmore, as the nominee of that party, upon his allegiance; but even supposing for a moment that Mr. Fillmore was still a Whig, where was Andrew Jackson Donelson, whose vocation it had been to revile Mr. Fillmore while that gentleman was the head of a Whig administration. Such an amalgamation was unworthy of his respect or support. He might go into the antecedents of the candidates and the parties, and show how far preferable Mr. Buchanan was as the candidate to be voted for by the Southern people, but would confine himself to what is now before the people.—The Cincinnati Convention and its nominees alone plant themselves upon the plain issue of resistance to unconstitutional aggressions upon the rights of the States—they alone could bring together the national strength necessary to crush such aggressions—they alone had shown themselves able to do so, and they alone were worthy to receive the support of Southern freemen, and they ought to receive such support unitedly and undividedly. He disposed of all the charges against Mr. Buchanan, summarily but effectively. There was a peculiar boldness and pointedness about Mr. Steele's remarks which were warmly responded to, and were only sorry that a larger number of the opposite party were not present to listen to him.

After Col. Steele had concluded, the Chairman, Dr. Bellamy, announced the fact that dinner was on the table, and extended a hearty invitation to all to partake of it. We found two long tables covered with a bountifully provided, well salt, and well cooked dinner, embracing corned and fresh beef, hams, turkey, beef tongues, roast pig, vegetables, corn and loaf bread, pickles and condiments, pies, etc., etc., the whole tastefully arranged and set off with flowers. After all had partaken to their fullest satisfaction, a procession was formed to come up town where Hon. Thomas Ruffin and other gentlemen were to address them. In that procession there were neither boys nor negroes. It was a solid column of men—voters, and, although numbers did not join in it, it yet spoke for itself—all who chose could see it, and what how vast it was, and no newspaper-talk can make it less or greater. It was composed mainly of voters.

When the assemblage had got properly placed, Dr. J. D. Bellamy, from Holmes' Balcony, introduced to the audience the Honorable Thomas Ruffin, Representative in Congress from the Newbern District. Mr. Ruffin prefaced his remarks by saying that he should not detain the meeting by a lengthy speech. He felt quite unwell and could only occupy the position of a laborer in a well-gleaned field, picking up any stray grain which might have escaped the attention of the able gentlemen who had preceded him on that day, and on the previous night. He picked up some solid and substantial grains, however, and he used them with force and telling effect. The Democrats had been charged with having occasioned the present sectional difficulties, but this was all wrong.—The Democrats had pursued the only true course to restore peace to the country and establish that peace on a solid foundation—the foundation of the Constitution—of perfect equality between all the States and the people of the States. No, the Democrats were not chargeable with these difficulties—difficulties for which the Know Nothing institution at the North was alone responsible. It could not have been forgotten how the enemies of the Democratic party at the South had rejoiced over the successes achieved over the Democrats in Northern States, nor how these successes had in fact proved themselves to have been nothing but abolition victories. To the operations of this institution in filling the Halls of our National Legislature with vile abolitionists the whole difficulty was attributable; such a set had never been seen there before—such a set he hoped never to see there again—a worse set or a viler set he would defy the infernal regions themselves to produce. But it was said that the Democrats had done all this by repelling the Missouri Compromise. But what did the friends of Mr. Fillmore mean by all this denunciation of the repeal of the Missouri Compromise.—If it was wrong, as by their clamorous denunciations they would appear to think and have us believe, it was their evident duty to stand up for the re-imposition of that prohibition against the South. But they dared not to do so. They dared not carry out their own avowals to their legitimate results, showing plainly that they themselves lacked faith in this electioneering cant. He knew and felt that there were many honest men, who were honestly mistaken in regard to these matters—men who could rise above prejudice and go for the right. To these he earnestly appealed to come out and act for these interests of their country, which would be most certainly promoted by going for Buchanan and Breckinridge. Of course, he made no appeal to those whose prejudices were superior to their patriotism—whose hatred to the Democratic party was greater than their love for their country. These he did not want nor expect.

A loud call was now made upon Joshua G. Wright, Esq., who presently appeared on the balcony and was greeted with enthusiastic applause. Mr. Wright said that he did not appear there from any desire of making a public display. He had not sought to make any public avowal at this time, but he had been requested to do so, and being so requested, he availed himself of the opportunity to define the position which his sense of duty prompted him to assume at the present juncture in our national affairs. It would be affectation in him to pretend not to understand that the call with which the meeting had honored him was due to the prevalence of the report that he, an old-line Whig and a steadfast opponent of the Democratic party, was prepared to co-operate with the Democratic party, and contribute his vote, at least, to the success of Buchanan and Breckinridge. Rumor had represented him truly. He had come here to make no recantations—to announce no changes of political opinions—to assume no new party allegiance, but to state briefly the reasons which had led to the conclusion at which he had arrived. He had been a Whig as long as there had been a Whig party with which he could act. As such, he had been an open, uncompromising foe of the Democrats, as partisans—he had, thank God, never known what it was to feel the first stirring of personal bitterness towards his political opponents; but the Whig party had been stabbed in the house of its friends, and an epitaph placed upon its tomb to indicate that it had died of its own corruptions.—Mr. Fillmore had joined this new party—a party which had arisen amid a mystery and a concealment which he could not but regard as dangerous and anti-republican—a party to whose avowals of principle he could not subscribe. He had leant and still leant to the belief that a more national feeling should be cultivated, but he could not consent to cower that to the extent of proscription, nor could he ever sanction any interference with, or any test founded upon, a man's religious belief.

Thus things had stood. The Whig party was no more. The "American" party had stabbed it to death, and proclaimed that it had died of its own corruptions. Mr. Fillmore, the candidate of the "American" party, had severed his connection with the Whig party, and he was nominated by the Philadelphia Convention of February last because of his having severed it and joined himself with its denouncers. Mr. Fillmore had treated him, and all the other old-line whigs who still adhered to their party, with unkindness. He had cut loose from and left them, and joined with others in proclaiming their party corrupt and dead. Was he a mere automaton, to be turned around to vote for a man and act with a party which had denounced and vilified and killed the party to which he had belonged? Surely that could not be expected of him. But what was he to do—where was he to go? For a time he did nothing—he went nowhere. He watched the march of events, anxious to pursue that course which might appear most in accordance with his sense of duty as a citizen. He felt no hesitation in saying that, under existing circumstances, his course as a Southern man, and as a national man, appeared clear to him. In this canvass he felt it to be his duty to act with the Democratic party. Its position upon the great and absorbing issues of the day was the position of truth and patriotism. Its candidates were pure men and able statesmen. He admired Mr. Fillmore as a man, but Mr. Fillmore was not the only man in the world. In James Buchanan he found a man of vast experience, unimpeachable honesty and transcendent ability, to whose hand the people of the country might safely commit the guidance of their public affairs. He was the candidate of a party which, however much he [Mr. Wright] might have differed from it on other matters, and at other times, had always been, and was now, true and reliable on the slavery question. Mr. Buchanan was the candidate who alone could defeat sectionalism and place our national affairs once more on a firm foundation. There was no reason why he should not go for him;—there was every reason why he should go. In doing so he followed the dictates of his own conscience. Others, many others, with whom it had been his pride and pleasure to act in by-gone days had chosen to adopt a different course. To these gentlemen he conceded perfect sincerity and perfect purity of motives. He only asked that the same should be conceded to himself. Mr. Wright was evidently somewhat embarrassed at first, but as he progressed this wore off, and he spoke with much earnestness and force, as one evidently acting under a sense of duty. His remarks were courteous and respectful to all who might differ from him in opinion. It is known to those acquainted with Mr. Wright's views, that he has from the first stood aloof from the Know Nothing or "American" organization, and that his remarks on Thursday afternoon were only the public avowal of opinions previously entertained and freely expressed in private conversation. Of course it is not for us to speak of Mr. Wright's previous course or position as a whig, while the whig party was in existence. That is well known to every one, as is also Mr. Wright's perfect sincerity and singleness of purpose. This none who know him will call in question.

Hon. Abram W. Venable made a few remarks.—He said that Mr. Wright did not pledge himself to act with the Democratic party beyond the present campaign. He did not ask him to do so. He was happy to welcome him upon his own terms. He felt assured that he would act with the Democratic party as long as his judgment told him that it acted for the good of the country and the safety of the South, and for his part, he felt convinced that no man should pledge himself to act with any party a moment after his judgment told him that it had ceased to deserve his confidence.

The assemblage, now very large indeed, was fully aroused and anxious to hear more speaking, and calls were made upon various gentlemen. Dr. J. D. Bellamy, the Chairman, announced its adjournment, to meet at the Court House after supper.

At night, the Court House was crowded to its utmost capacity. Dr. Wm. A. Berry was called to the Chair, and Messrs. McKoy and George requested to act as Secretaries.

Col. Walter L. Steele, of Richmond, being loudly called for, answered the call, although fatigued by the previous exertions of the day. He made a most able and effective speech which was warmly and enthusiastically received.

The next call was upon Wm. S. Mullins, Esq., of South Carolina, and it was one that could not be resisted. Mr. Mullins spoke less as a partizan than as a States Rights man, so that speaking he enunciated strong Democratic doctrines, and delivered an address characterized by brilliancy and force. Mr. Mullins is a decidedly able public speaker.

E. G. Haywood, Esq., of Raleigh, was the next speaker demanded by the audience, and he closed the proceedings in a manner worthy of the occasion and creditable to himself, after which the meeting finally adjourned amid much enthusiasm.

We must now draw to a close our account of an affair which, from first to last, in all its details and incidents, was a full and complete success. A succession of meetings, speeches and displays, long to be remembered. The very weather itself, proverbially unstable, seemed to have put on its brightest aspect, and to be on its best behavior. From first to last, not a single accident or untoward event occurred to leave regrets for the future or mar the existing harmony. The total absence of liquor from the grounds was a most excellent feature, and elevated the tone of the whole occasion, and, in connection with the meetings, during the whole time, we did not notice a single drunken or disorderly person.

Too much credit cannot be given to the marshalls and committee of arrangements. E. D. Hall, Esq., and his assistants, exerted themselves untiringly and with perfect success in getting up the beautiful display, as well as in the preservation of the perfect order and decorum which characterized the celebration throughout. Wm. T. J. Vann, Esq., and James M. Stevenson, Esq., were more than successful in their supervision of the getting up of the dinner, and our young friend, W. C. Ferguson, Esq., had everything arranged to perfection at the ground, in the way of speakers' stand, seats for the audience, shed for the dinner, tables, etc. But, to particularize all who took an earnest part, would be to call over the names of every gentleman on the committee, and especially that of its worthy and efficient chairman, Miles Costin, Esq., who is never wanting when anything Democratic is on hand.

To Messrs. Kidder & Martin the thanks of the Committee are due for their courtesy in tendering the use of lumber and hands to assist in getting up the stand, etc., upon the ground, as also to the proprietors of the ground. Such acts of courtesy from members of an opposite party are pleasing to record. They are the green spots in the political field, showing that political antagonism does not necessarily induce personal animosity or interpose with the courtesies of life between political opponents. This is as it should be. The boat rigged up as a ship was kindly lent by B. W. Berry, Esq., and much of her tasteful arrangement was due to Captain George Walker.

But at last we must conclude this account, which, meagre and unsatisfactory as we know it to be, has still occupied more space than we can well afford.—Finally, we beg leave, on behalf of the Democratic Association of the town of Wilmington, to return our sincere thanks to those distinguished gentlemen from a distance who lent us their valuable aid on this occasion.

The following letters, among others, have been received from gentlemen invited to attend the meeting. The reputation of their distinguished writers will ensure them an attentive perusal. We have on file a number of others which will be found on the inside of this paper.

MR. CHOAETE'S LETTER. East Oct. 4th, 1856. GENTLEMEN: I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 27th ult., inviting me to a mass meeting to be held in Wilmington.

I feel very sincerely the honor of the invitation, and appreciate with how desirable it is for those who love and serve our noble country, irrespective of party ties or antecedents, to meet and take counsel, and propose a remedy. Holding a clear opinion that the defeat of the geographical party is the first duty of patriotism, and that a vote for the nominee of the Cincinnati Convention would be a betrayal of the private citizen can perform his share of that duty, I shall give that vote, and shall earnestly wish you success, but my engagements will wholly prevent my being with you. I am, most truly, yours, &c. R. CHOAETE.

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To doubt this position, would be almost to question your patriotism. To those Whigs who have predilections in favor of Mr. Fillmore, when they see he is not available, and that votes cast for him will be to elect a Democrat, the Whigs of the whole country, and probably secure the election of Fremont, it is asking too great a sacrifice of them to abandon their favorite, and unite with us in electing a man whose political views are national—those who are in favor of the Union, and who will administer the government in such a manner as to do justice to all sections.

He is impossible to be elected by the North.—Do his most sanguine friends claim any State but New York and what evidence do they furnish to show that that State will vote for him? There is no evidence in that State supporting his election. Where and what are the evidences then of his strength even there? Does any one doubt that Mr. Buchanan's chances are better than those of Mr. Fillmore? Will not his concessions against him be a fatal blow? Will not his concessions against him be a fatal blow? Will not his concessions against him be a fatal blow?

In the South where Mr. Fillmore's strength be? His friends claim only three or four States, which concede the remaining nine or ten to Buchanan; which is most available, then in the present emergency which threatens the Union itself. Can there be two opinions, and if Mr. Buchanan is the more available, is it not a duty to support him? The Whigs of the whole country, and probably secure the election of Fremont, it is asking too great a sacrifice of them to abandon their favorite, and unite with us in electing a man whose political views are national—those who are in favor of the Union, and who will administer the government in such a manner as to do justice to all sections.

Some of Mr. Fillmore's friends rely upon his getting a sufficient vote to defeat an election in the electoral college, and when carried to the House, to secure his election by a coalition there. Suppose they defeat an election before the people, with whom they coalesce in the House? They cannot do so, shall not his concessions against him be a fatal blow? Will not his concessions against him be a fatal blow? Will not his concessions against him be a fatal blow?

And are there any national supporters of Fillmore who desire to see him elevated to the Presidency on any such terms? If there are, it is due to candor that they should come out and avow it now, so that all eyes may be turned to the opportunity of passing their verdict upon such a proposition.

The magnitude of the interests involved in the contest, and the importance of the result, will not allow any man to be so blind as to see that the result will be to the result in all the States, but to none more than North Carolina. As the birth-place and home of my ancestors, it has much to say in the matter.

I am, very truly, yours, &c. JAMES L. ORR. Hon. W. S. ASHE and others, Committee, &c., Wilmington.

FOUR DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE. CAFE ISLAND, N. J. Oct. 21.—H. A. M.—The steamer City of Baltimore, with Liverpool dates for the evening of the 7th inst., has just passed here, going up to Philadelphia.

ENGLAND.—The Bank of England has advanced the rates of discount to 7 per cent. for bills of a longer date than two months; in consequence of advances from Paris, on Monday, that the Bank of France had resolved not to admit notes for discount of more than sixty days, and to limit the advances on public securities to forty days, and to raise the rate of discount to 5 per cent. The London Times says the effect of the measure adopted by the Bank of England is complete. All pressure for money, both at the banks and in the discount market, has subsided. Foreign exchanges have received a favorable impulse. The Bank of France is again purchasing gold. The final quotations of the French 3 per cent. showed an improvement of 4.

PARIS.—The rise in corn has been checked, and a decline is expected; as the crops exceed an average, and the foreign arrivals are ample. The London Post's Paris correspondent, under date of the 7th, says: The Bourse rallied under the effect of the report that the Minister of Finance had restored public confidence in reference to the exaggerated rumors circulated for several days.

ITALY.—The latest accounts from Naples state that the King is less disconcerted than ever by the consequences of the expedition to Naples is still delayed, though events in that capital seem to leave no alternative.

SPAIN.—The late intelligence states that a royal decree dissolved the commission on the Cortes, and a new commission had been appointed.

SWITZERLAND.—Six hundred delegates of the people had assembled at Morges and constituted a Central Committee declaring the sovereignty of the people unchanged from the time of the Revolution.

CONTRACT AFFAIRS.—Matters of the continent are unsettled. The Isle of Serpents question is not yet satisfactorily adjusted. The French squadron has been ordered to co-operate with the English fleet. An Austrian squadron has been ordered to Constantinople, consisting of three steamers and six gun boats.

A new Danish ministry had been formed—all elements having failed; and the Chambers had prolonged to the 1st of December the opening of the 11th inst.

The steamer Atlantic arrived on the 9th. The news by this arrival is meagre. The English Telegraph companies gave a banquet to Professor Morse, who has just succeeded in telegraphing a distance of two thousand miles at a rate of two hundred and ten signals per minute.

FRANCE.—The French 3 per cent. were quoted on Friday at 66 francs 80 centimes, showing a recovery of one quarter.

ITALY.—The German papers report that the King of Naples has been induced to make certain concessions, and it was thought matters would be arranged amicably. Two English ships of war, under Admiral Dundas, remained at Ajaccio, and more were expected. The French fleet remains at Toulon. The Russian fleet, under the Grand Duke Constantine, is going to the Mediterranean as a guard of honor to the Queen Mother in her tour to Italy.

The Spanish fleet has been